

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7153

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS PFOR, TH CB.

SUBJECT: THANOM 'S COMMENTS ON SIHANOUK AND THAI
RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA

1. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF
PRIME MINISTER THANOM KITTIACHAORN'S OCTOBER 3 PRESS
CONFERENCE COMMENTS ON SIHANOUK AND THAI RELATIONS
WITH CAMBODIA.

2. BEGIN TEXT: REPORTER: KHUN BANYAT OF THE BANGKOK
POST ASKS THE PRIME MINISTER FOR HIS VIEW ON THE EXCLUSIVE
INTERVIEW GIVEN BY PRINCE SHANOUK IN WHICH HE
SAID HE IS READY TO BE FRIENDS WITH THAILAND AND THAT
WHEN HE REGAINS POWER IN CAMBODIA HE WILL ESTABLISH
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ONLY WITH COUNTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE
HIM AT PRESENT.

THANOM: REGARDING THE INTERVIEW WITH PRINCE SIHANOUK THAT
WAS PUBLISHED IN THE "BANGKOK POST" ON SEPTEMBER 29. I FEEL
IT IS GOOD TO KNOW OF HIS FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD THAILAND
AND THE THAI PEOPLE. THAILAND IS READY TO BE FRIENDS WITH
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EVERY COUNTRY THAT DOES NOT HAVE EVIL INTENTIONS TOWARD IT.

IN ONE PART OF HIS INTERVIEW PRINCE SIHANOUK STATED THAT WHEN HE REGAINS POWER HE WILL ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES THAT RECOGNIZE HIS GOVERNMENT IN EXILE IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AT PRESENT. THOUGH THAILAND DOES NOT RECOGNIZE IT AT PRESENT, WHEN HE REGAINS POWER IN CAMBODIA HE SAID HE WILL NOT BE AN ENEMY OF THAILAND. THEREFORE, EVEN THOUGH HE WILL NOT ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH US HE WILL NOT BE HOSTILE TOWARD THAILAND. IF HE IS NOT HOSTILE TOWARD US, WE WILL NOT BE HOSTILE TOWARD HIM.

REPORTER: DO YOU THINK THAT THERE IS ANY WAY OF SIHANOUK TO STAGE A COME-BACK?

THANOM: YOU HAVE READ THE INTERVIEWS HE GIVES TO NEWSPAPERS CONSTANTLY, AND HE SAYS NOW THAT LON NOL WILL MOST PROBABLY CONTINUE BEING IN POWER FOR MANY MORE YEARS, BECAUSE RED CAMBODIANS ARE NOT BEING GIVEN ALL-OUT SUPPORT BY NORTH VIETNAM AND BY RED CHINA. SUPPORT GIVEN IS REDUCED THEREFORE THIS SHOWS THAT MARSHAL LON NOL THESE ARE STATEMENTS MADE BY SIHANOUK HIMSELF; THEY DO NOT REPRESENT MY VIEW.

REPORTER: IS IT THE POLICY OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND RECOGNITION TO ANY GOVERNMENT THAT IS IN POWER SO LONG AS IT IS A LEGAL GOVERNMENT?

THANOM: I HAVE MADE A STATMENT ON THIS SUBJECT TWO OR THREE TIMES IN THE PAST ALREADY. END TEXT.
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